

November 9, 2000

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION OF EVENT OR UNUSUAL OCCURRENCE PNO-II-00-046A

This preliminary notification constitutes EARLY notice of events of possible safety or public interest significance. The information is as initially received without verification or evaluation, and is basically all that is known by Region II staff (Atlanta, Georgia) on this date.

Facility

Newell Recycling
(Non-Licensee)
Atlanta, GA
Dockets: N/A

Licensee Emergency Classification

Notification of Unusual Event
Alert
Site Area Emergency
General Emergency
X Not Applicable

SUBJECT: UPDATED INFORMATION ON SOURCE FOUND IN SCRAP METAL

This is in reference to the strontium-90 source found in scrap metal by the Georgia Radioactive Materials Program and reported to NRC on October 25, 2000. The Georgia Program conducted an inspection at the licensee's facility on Friday, November 3, 2000. The Georgia program determined that the likelihood of radiation exposure to members of the public is low because the handling of scrap material at the licensee's facility, the scrap hauler, and the scrap recycle facility does not include any manual handling of scrap for disassembly or size reduction of metal scrap. The scrap metal recycler uses either a shredder or metal shears to reduce the size of the scrap. The gauge went through one of these two processes. The distributor of the gauge has recovered the source and reports that the source showed significant external damage, consistent with the gauge having been subjected to the recycler's shredder or metal shears. The distributor also reported that their initial test showed no leakage of radioactive material.

Region II received notification of this updated information by facsimile from the Georgia Radioactive Materials Program at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2000. This information is current as of 1:30 p.m., November 9, 2000.

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